

On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by \$33,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by \$110,000,000.

On page 7, line 4, increase the amount by \$152,000,000.

On page 7, line 6, increase the amount by \$197,000,000.

On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$32,000,000.

On page 20, line 3, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by \$35,000,000.

On page 20, line 7, increase the amount by \$37,000,000.

On page 20, line 8, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 20, line 11, increase the amount by \$37,000,000.

On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 20, line 15, increase the amount by \$38,000,000.

On page 20, line 16, increase the amount by \$37,000,000.

On page 26, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 26, line 25, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 3, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 27, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 27, line 7, increase the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 27, line 8, increase the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 27, line 11, increase the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 27, line 12, increase the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 27, line 15, increase the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 27, line 16, increase the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$32,000,000.

On page 53, line 4, increase the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 53, line 7, increase the amount by \$37,000,000.

SA 3172. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011; as follows:

On page 25, line 24, increase the amount by \$308,000,000.

On page 25, line 25, increase the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 26, line 4, increase the amount by \$31,000,000.

On page 26, line 8, increase the amount by \$65,000,000.

On page 26, line 12, increase the amount by \$95,000,000.

On page 26, line 16, increase the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$308,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$31,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$65,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, increase/decrease the amount by \$95,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$77,000,000.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 29, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1832, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease oil and gas resources underlying Fort Reno, OK, to establish the Fort Reno Management Fund, and for other purposes; S. 2150, to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain Bureau of Land Management Land to the City of Eugene, OR, and H.R. 3507, to transfer certain land in Riverside County, CA, and San Diego County, CA, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Dick Bouts at 202-224-7545 or Sara Zecher 202-224-8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 16, 2006, at 8:30 a.m., to receive testimony from combatant commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, in review of the defense authorization request for Fiscal Year 2007 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Disaster Prediction and Prevention be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Volcanic Hazards.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 3 p.m. on pending Committee business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 10 a.m. on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 9:30 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Cuno and Competitiveness: Where to draw the line".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 9:15 a.m. in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Wednesday, March 16, 2006, at 9 a.m. in The Mansfield Room, S-207 The Capitol.

Agenda

I. Nominations: Norman Randy Smith, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Patrick J. Schiltz, to be U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Minnesota; Steven G. Bradbury, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; John F. Clark to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

II. Bills: S. , Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Chairman's Mark; S. 1768. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Grassley, Schumer, Feingold, Durbin; S. 829, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2005; Grassley, Schumer, Cornyn, Leahy, Feingold, Durbin, Graham, DeWine, Specter; S. 489, Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act; Alexander, Kyl, Cornyn, Graham, Hatch; S. 2039, Prosecutors and Defendants Incentive Act of 2005; Durbin, Specter, DeWine, Leahy, Kennedy, Feinstein, Feingold; S. 2292, A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary

from excessive rent charges; Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Feinstein, Biden.

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment; Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 16, 2006, for a committee hearing titled "Looking At Our Homeless Veterans' Programs: How Effective Are They?" The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing regarding "Earmark Reform: Understanding the Obligation of Funds Transparency Act".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226 on S.J. Res. 12, the Flag Desecration Resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 16, 2006 at time 3:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on global strike plans and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Van de Water of the Senate Appropriations Committee be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of S. Con. Res. 83.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have several items in wrapup in a little bit and a lot of activity is going on. Hopefully in 15 or 20 minutes we will be able to close the Senate. I come to the Senate to make a couple of statements.

I begin with the very brief comment on the budget itself. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their tremendous efforts in bringing to a close passage of a budget resolution that this Senate can be very proud of. Overall management of the budget was superb. I thank Chairman JUDD GREGG and Senator KENT CONRAD for their leadership, for their patience on what is always a very difficult process that culminates in this vote-arama that we have been in from about 1:30 today up until about an hour ago. With these vote-aramas, everyone is on the floor and milling around, considering amendment after amendment. It is a challenge for all Senators, with tensions tending to rise. To have two cool heads calmly manage this bill is a real tribute to both of them. I thank them for their leadership.

The budget itself is a tough budget. It is a disciplined budget. It restrains spending and tackles the deficit. It reflects our commitment to America's future and to making America stronger and safer and more economically sound. Like so many of the issues we tackled this year, it is not an easy process. It has not been a very easy process. With determination and with focus, a lot of energy by leading on principle, we are delivering meaningful solutions for the American people. We have demonstrated this Senate can and does govern. We have been doing that consistently.

As we reflect over the last several weeks, no more so than with the confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito. A lot of our opponents had tried to distort his record and to undermine the process, but this Senate held firm, and with that Judge Alito did receive a fair up-or-down vote that he deserved in the Senate. But to get to that point was tough. We proved that the Senate can hold a free, a dignified, and a thorough debate while at the same time fulfilling our constitutional responsibility of giving advice and consent. Justice Alito now sits on the Supreme Court of the United States. In every respect Judge Alito was a nominee who meets the highest standards of excellence. I congratulate him once again on his most deserved achievement.

Principle and determination to protect the American people also guided more recently our passage of the PATRIOT Act. Again, the process got stymied. There was a lot of delay. There was a lot of postponement. But we pressed forward and after sustained negotiations we were able to secure law enforcement's No. 1 terrorist fighting tool, the USA PATRIOT Act.

The legislation itself works to promote information sharing and breaking down barriers between our intelligence

agencies and our law enforcement agencies. It has proven to be an effective tool. It levels the playing field so we can effectively harness all of our resources to defeat terror. It appropriately balances the constitutional rights of all Americans against our need to effectively investigate and halt potential terrorist attacks. Every day it is helping the authorities dismantle terrorist organizations and stop our enemies in their tracks.

Keeping America strong also means keeping our economy thriving, and that is why also this past month we passed the Tax Relief Act of 2005. We know that tax cuts work. We know they grow the economy and help create jobs. In 2001 we delivered tax relief to the American people of \$1.4 trillion; 2 years later, another \$350 billion. We cut taxes on income and marriage. We doubled the child tax credit, we slashed taxes on capital gains and dividends. And the product we are seeing, our economy, has grown. We created over 5 million jobs in the last 36 months. Unemployment is the lowest it has been since before September 11, lower now than the average of the 1990s, those boom years, and the 1980s and the 1970s. Home ownership is up. Almost 70 percent of Americans own their homes. Minority ownership is at an all-time high. Tax relief has led to 3 years of continued strong growth.

The tax cuts are working. Even this past year we saw growth in revenues coming to the Government in over 10 percent, in double digits. When we return, I hope we will be able to address the conference report on this tax reconciliation bill.

That brings me to what will come in the 2 weeks after the current recess.

Our attention is to focus on border security when we come back. Our country needs security at our borders in order to stop the flow of illegal immigration and make America safer from foreign criminals and terrorists.

Today, I introduced a border security bill to ensure the Senate will have legislation available for consideration during that week of March 27. The Senate Judiciary Committee, under the fantastic leadership of ARLEN SPECTER, has been addressing border security and interior enforcement aggressively over the last 3 weeks. They have had what we all know of as a markup this week, including today and yesterday, on 2 days of last week and the week before. ARLEN SPECTER has been a tireless leader. Indeed, they will return on that first Monday to continue that markup.

Now is the time to take their outstanding work to the floor. That is exactly what we will do. The bill I introduced is based on the consensus enforcement, visa reform, and immigration litigation reform titles of Chairman SPECTER's bill, the markup of border security legislation. It focuses on ensuring strict enforcement of our Nation's immigration laws.

I do look forward to bringing a border security bill to the floor in the